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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9486  
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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3430  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8905  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEAHLA/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

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SENSITIVE  
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DEPT FOR SA/INS, CA FOR VO  
NEW DELHI FOR JDOZIER  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [KCOR](#) [KFRD](#) [CVIS](#) [SNAR](#) [PTER](#) [NP](#)  
SUBJECT: ICE OFFICIAL SEEKS FUNDING FOR NEPAL CUSTOMS

REF: A. KATHMANDU 2134

[1](#)B. KATHMANDU 2257

SUMMARY  
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[1](#)1. (SBU) In recent meetings with James Dozier of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division (ICE) from Embassy New Delhi, Nepali officials identified training and equipment needed to improve immigration, customs, and drug trafficking enforcement. Police officials noted their ongoing cooperation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on drug trafficking and requested training in money laundering and financial crimes enforcement. Nepali Immigration and Embassy Consular Section officials expressed their gratitude for previous training and flagged the need for equipment and further training (reftels). Dozier undertook to convey these assistance requests at the upcoming Joint Inter-Agency Task Force West (JIATF West) ICE Attache Regional Conference in February 2006 in Hong Kong. End Summary.

CUSTOMS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT REQUESTS  
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[1](#)2. (SBU) In a November 21 meeting with Dozier, Chandi Prasad Dahal, acting Director General of Customs, explained that His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) focused more on the collection of customs revenue than on enforcement. He admitted that mismanagement and a lack of work ethic had been problems in implementing lessons learned from prior ICE training (ref A). However, he was eager to cooperate with, and receive assistance from, the U.S. Dahal stated that Customs was planning to computerize all their operations within a year and requested assistance with purchasing the computers and database training. Madhu Sudhan Bhattarai, Airport Customs Chief, stressed during a tour of the Air Cargo facility that having no x-ray machines for the import area and only two machines for exports prevented Customs from checking cargo for compliance with Nepali customs regulations. Noting the lack of a reliable x-ray machine at customs in the arrival area of the international airport, Bhattarai expressed the hope for U.S. assistance in addressing the problem. Dozier said he would convey customs

enforcement assistance requests to JIATF West at the February 2006 ICE Attache Regional Conference in Hong Kong.

POLICE AND CUSTOMS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING

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13. (SBU) In several meetings, Dozier discussed drug trafficking and money laundering enforcement efforts with Police and Customs officials. Airport Customs Chief Bhattarai lamented that Customs did not have the proper machines or competent manpower to combat drug trafficking at the airport. Balgovinda Bista, Joint Secretary for the Disaster Planning and Narcotics Division, echoed the need to strengthen the drug enforcement unit at the airport. Both officials requested U.S. assistance. Hemant Malla, Senior Superintendent of Police, Narcotics Drug Control Law Enforcement Unit, explained his unit's activities and the good relations with DEA officials in New Delhi. Rabi Kant Aryal, Additional Inspector General of Police, asked for police training in money laundering and financial crimes enforcement and training in inter-governmental cooperation. Aryal also wanted to learn how to trace the origination of e-mails, specifically mentioning Maoist propaganda. Dozier noted that drug trafficking and money laundering enforcement assistance were two of JIATF West's areas of concern.

IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HOPE FOR CONTINUED ICE SUPPORT

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14. (SBU) Immigration officials also flagged the need for training and equipment in a November 21 meeting with Dozier. Mohan Krishna Sapkota, Director General, Immigration, requested the following equipment assistance: machine-readable passport devices (of which they have none), ultra-violet lights, and computers and uninterrupted power sources to link airport and border area databases. Sapkota also sought training on computer databases, document control for sensitive items such as passports and visas, and follow-up document verification training. Bedh Prakash Lekhak, Chief Immigration Officer, Tribhuvan International Airport, said that he would like to learn more about how other countries' immigration systems worked so that Nepal Immigration could better coordinate efforts with other nations. Dozier noted that such immigration training was available from DHS sources other than JIATF West.

COMMENT

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15. (SBU) HMGN officials have expressed appreciation for past ICE assistance. Post hopes ICE can continue to support customs and immigration programs in Nepal in the future.

16. (U) James Dozier, ICE, New Delhi, cleared on this cable.  
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